



## **Employment Security Department**

WASHINGTON STATE

### **ALTERNATIVE TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE (ATAA) FOR OLDER WORKER**

- Trade Adjustment Reform Act of 2002 established the Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) Program for Older Workers. (At least 50 years of age)
- ATAA is intended to serve individuals who are at least 50 years of age, and for whom retraining may not be appropriate. Worker must be 50 prior to starting new job.
- ATAA eligible participants who become re-employed within 26 weeks of their layoff and who make less in their new job than they were making in their old job are eligible to receive one-half of the difference between their old and new wage. (The individual may not earn more than \$50,000 per year in the new employment)
- ATAA certified individuals are eligible for the Health Coverage Tax Credit, but not other Trade Act benefits such as retraining, Job Search Allowances, Relocation Allowances and Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA).
- Participation in the ATAA program is a choice the worker must make. Once the worker begins to receive the ATAA supplement, she/he cannot switch back to the TAA program.
- Once an ATAA payment is made, the worker forfeits all rights to TAA and TRA
- Worker has two years from 1<sup>st</sup> day of new job to receive his/her \$10,000 in wage subsidies, regardless of when he started job in relation to company certification.
- Less than full-time employment for any week results in a denial.
- Worker must have ETA 57 (initial Trade Act entitlement determination) completed. There is no minimum or maximum amount for the ATAA weekly payment.
- ATAA payments must occur at the very least on a monthly basis. Washington generally pays twice a month.
- If a worker accepts work with their layoff employer at a different location, the work they accept cannot be similar to what they did prior to layoff. In addition, the individual cannot return to the division/facility from which he/she was separated, even if the work is not similar.